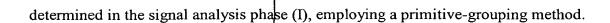<u>IN THE CLAIMS:</u>

<u>Claims 1-14 have been amended in the following manner:</u>

1   1. (Amended) A method for the elimination of spurious signal components (SS)

2   in an input signal (ES), said method consisting of

3   - the characterization, in a signal analysis phase (I), of signal components of the

4   spurious signal components (SS) and of an information signal (NS) contained in the input

5   signal (ES), and

6   - the determination or generation, in a signal processing phase (II), of the

7   information signal (NS) or an estimated information signal (NS') on the basis of the

8   characterization obtained in the signal analysis phase (I),

9   said characterization of the signal components (SS, NS) being performed under

10   utilization at least of auditory-based features (M_1 to M_j).

1   2. (Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the following

2   auditory features (M_1 to M_j) are used for the characterization of the signal components

3   (NS, SS): loudness, spectral profile, harmonic structure, common build-up and decay

4   times, coherent amplitude and frequency modulation, coherent phases, interaural runtime

5   and level differences.

1   3. (Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the auditory features (M_1 to M_j)

2   are determined in different frequency bands.

1   4. (Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the characterization of the

2   signal components (SS, NS) is performed by evaluating the features (M_1 to M_j)

2

3ˇ   determined in the signal analysis phase (I), employing a primitive-grouping method.

1   5. (Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the characterization of the

2   signal components (SS, NS) is performed by evaluating the features (M_1 to M_j)

3   determined in the signal analysis phase (I), employing a scheme-based grouping

4   technique.

1   6. (Amended) The method as in claim 5, wherein a hypothesis is established or

2   specified on the nature of the signal component (SS, NS) and is taken into account in the

3   grouping of the identified features (M_1 to M_j).

1   7. (Amended) The method as in claim 5 or 6, wherein for the characterization

2   of the signal components (NS, SS), at least the auditory features(M_1 to M_j) are grouped

3   along the principles of a gestalt theory.

1   8. (Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the signal components

2   identified as spurious noise components (SS) are suppressed and/or the signal

3   components identified as information signals (NS) or estimated information signals (NS')

4   are amplified.

1   9. (Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the information signal (NS) or

2   an estimated information signal (NS') is synthesized in the signal processing phase (II)

3   on the basis of the features (M_1 to M_j) detected in the signal analysis phase (I).

1   10. (Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein with the aid of an analysis

2 of the harmonic structure in the signal analysis phase (I), different base frequencies of the

3 signal component of the information signal (NS) or of the estimated information signal

4 (NS') are extracted and, with the aid especially of a loudness or LPC analysis, spectral

5 levels of harmonics of these signal components are defined, and on the basis of the

6 spectral levels and the harmonics an information signal for tonal speech components is

7 synthesized.

1   11. (Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein with the aid of an analysis of

2 the harmonic structure in the signal analysis phase (I), nontonal signal components of the

3 information signal (NS) or of the estimated information signal (NS') are extracted and,

4 with the aid especially of a loudness or LPC analysis, spectral levels of these signal

5 components are defined, and with the aid of a noise generator an information signal for

6 nontonal speech components is synthesized.

1   12. (Amended) The method as in claim 10 or 11, wherein the information signal

2 (NS) and/or the estimated information signal (NS') is amplified.

1   13. (Amended) Application of the method according to claim 1 for operating a

2 hearing aid.

1   14. (Amended) Hearing air operating by the method according to claim 1.